

Unit Outline



QTC



# NT301/501

# Jesus and the Gospels

QUEENSLAND THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE

## About this Unit Outline

This unit outline contains information essential to finding your way around the unit Jesus and the Gospels. It provides a structure for your learning, giving details of lecture topics, assessment requirements, and key resources.

UNIT OUTLINE **SEMESTER 1 2016**

## Important notice

While every care has been taken to ensure accuracy in the information given below, **it is the personal responsibility of each student to check the current ACT Undergraduate or Postgraduate Handbook**, copies of which may be found in the Library or online at [www.actheology.edu.au](http://www.actheology.edu.au)

It is very important that students plan their time carefully to ensure that reading and especially assignments receive adequate attention and so as to prevent a bottleneck of work at the end of the semester.

It is very important that all quoted material in assignments be properly footnoted and acknowledged. The attention of students is drawn to the section in the current ACT Undergraduate or Postgraduate Handbook, headed "**Academic Misconduct**". Failure to comply with the standards required will incur penalties as outlined in the ACT Undergraduate or Postgraduate Handbook.

The attention of students is also drawn to the section in the current ACT Undergraduate or Postgraduate Handbook, headed "**Guidelines for Essays.**" (see also the QTC Student Handbook) All essays should comply with these standards.

# Information about this unit

## Unit description

Welcome to the study of the Life and Teaching of Jesus in the setting of the Gospels. No matter how often we read the gospels we always are surprised at some new aspect that emerges from the life of our Lord. I pray that as we progress through this study you will be surprised, challenged and encouraged by what you learn. I am looking forward to being a guide on the journey with you.

This unit entails an introductory study of Jesus' life and ministry against its background of the world of that time as it is recorded in the gospels. This involves a study of the cultural, political, religious and social background of the Gospels. The gospels as pieces of literature are examined to see what we can learn about how they came into being and consequently how we can read them better. It then studies the life and ministry of Jesus, particularly as this is set out by Mark's gospel. Such topics as the Kingdom of God, the person of Jesus, the miracles, the ethics of Jesus, the parables and the passion and resurrection of Jesus are highlighted.

I trust this will be an enjoyable and profitable time for you.

Wesley Redgen.

## Learning objectives

### **NT301 Learning Outcomes**

#### Know and understand

1. The contents, themes and character of the canonical Gospel traditions
2. The life and ministry of Jesus

#### Be able to

1. Explain the influence of the historical, socio-cultural, religious and political setting of first-century Palestine as the context of Jesus' life and ministry
2. Analyse the distinctive features of the four Gospels and the interrelationships between them
3. Discuss: a) the life and identity of Jesus; and b) the message and ministry of Jesus

#### Be in a position to

1. Integrate perspectives from 'Jesus and the Gospels' with their other theological studies
2. Apply perspectives from 'Jesus and the Gospels' to current issues in Christian life and thought

### **NT501 Learning Outcomes**

#### Know and Understand:

1. The contents, themes and character of the canonical Gospel traditions
2. The life and ministry of Jesus
3. Selected approaches to 'Jesus and the Gospels'

#### Be able to

1. Explain the influence of the historical, socio-cultural, religious and political setting of first-century Palestine as the context of Jesus' life and ministry
2. Analyse the distinctive features of the four Gospels and the interrelationships between them
3. Discuss: a) the life and identity of Jesus; and b) the message and ministry of Jesus
4. Evaluate selected approaches to 'Jesus and the Gospels'

#### Be in a position to

1. Integrate perspectives from 'Jesus and the Gospels' with their other theological studies
2. Apply perspectives from 'Jesus and the Gospels' to current issues in Christian life and thought

## **How this Unit Contributes to the Course**

The unit is a core unit in the DipTh, DipMin, AssDegTh, BTh, BMin, GradDipDiv or MDiv. An overall understanding of the literature, setting and theology of the gospels is essential to further more detailed study of the Scriptures. A thorough understanding of the life of Christ and how he described his purpose and work is of course essential to Christian discipleship and ministry.

## **Pre-requisites and Co-requisites**

This is a core unit and as such there are no pre-requisites or co-requisites associated with it.

## **How this unit is organized & what we expect of you**

The unit is taught over a 13 week semester. Lectures will be three 1 hour classes on a ***Tuesday morning (see the Semester Timetable).***

This unit is 4 credit points in value. At degree level a 4 cp unit is considered to require 6 – 8 hrs of time commitment per week.

Students are required to attend all lectures, complete any set pre reading and complete all assessment task by the due date.

## Teaching staff

LECTURER AND COURSE CO-ORDINATOR

**Rev Wesley Redgen,**

ph 3871 9347 (W);

3381 0301 (H),

or email me [wredgen@qtc.edu.au](mailto:wredgen@qtc.edu.au)

**Rev Dr Russell Williams,**

Ph 5594 9364

[rwilliams@qtc.edu.au](mailto:rwilliams@qtc.edu.au)

Please feel free to contact Wesley if you have any problems or concerns about the course.

## Unit timetable: topics & teaching and learning activities

WEEK	LECTURE TOPIC	*READINGS
Week 1 WR	Introduction to the course Introduction to the Gospels	
Week 2 WR	The Background to the Gospels – Political	Ch 1 Blomberg
Week 3 WR	The Background to the Gospels – Religious	Ch 2 Blomberg
Week 4 WR	The Background to the Gospels - Cultural	Ch 3 Blomberg
	Preaching week	
Week 5 WR	Synoptic problem Distinctive features of Matthew and John	Ch 4&5 Blomberg Ch 7&9 Blomberg
Week 6 WR	Distinctive features of Luke	Ch 8 Blomberg
	Easter	
Week 7 WR	Mark an outline and features;	Ch 6 Blomberg
Week 8 WR	The Kingdom of God in Jesus' teaching	CH 10&11 Blomberg
Week 9 WR	The parables and their interpretation	CH 12&13 Blomberg
Week 10 WR	The miracles of Jesus and their interpretation	CH 14&15 Blomberg
Week 11 RW	The ethics of Jesus including the sermon on the mount	CH 16 Blomberg
Week 12 WR	The passion and its place in the Gospel narratives	Ch 17 Blomberg
Week 13 RW	Resurrection narratives and titles of Christ	Ch 17 Blomberg

WR = Wesley Redgen RW = Russell Williams

\*Chapter numbers in Blomberg. For comparison you may wish to also read other introductions such as Gundry.

## NT301 Assessments

**Assessments are submitted online via Moodle.**

**In order to pass the unit, you must submit all assessment pieces and attain a mark of at least 50% for the unit as a whole.**

Late submission of assessment, without prior permission, will be taken into account in determining your mark.

Your essays must also be within 10% of the required word limit and your ability to meet this requirement will also be taken into account in determining your mark. QTC seeks to prepare you for ministry, and in ministry delivering presentations on time & within an acceptable length are essential skills.

ASSESSMENT TASKS	DESCRIPTION
<p><b>2000 word Essay</b> <b>50% of Final Grade</b></p>	<p>An essay, which will assess the content of topics listed for weeks 8-11, i.e. the teaching of the Gospels on major topics</p> <p>Write a 2000 word essay on <b>ONE</b> of the following topics:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Based on Matt. 5:17- Discuss Jesus' attitude to the law.</li> <li>2. Why is the gospel called "the gospel of the kingdom" (Mk 1:14, Matt 4:23)?</li> <li>3. Why is the parable of the four soils sometimes called "the parable of the parables" (Mk 4:1-34)?</li> <li>4. What is the role of miracles in Mark's gospel?</li> </ol>
<p><b>Exam – 90 minutes</b> <b>50% of Final Grade</b></p>	<p>A 90 minute exam, which will assess the content of topics listed for weeks 1-7, 12-13. i.e. the background, literature and features of the Gospels.</p> <p>The exam will include two sections:</p> <p><b>Section A:</b> Students must answer <b>six</b> from ten short answer questions on the background to the gospels, i.e. the topics listed for weeks 2-4. This section will count for two-thirds of the total examination marks.</p> <p><b>Section B: One</b> essay question out of three questions on the literature of the gospels and the distinctive features of each. i.e. the topics listed for weeks 1,5,6,7,12,13.</p> <p>This section will count for one-third of the total examination marks.</p>

## NT501 Assessments

**Assessments are submitted online via Moodle.**

**In order to pass the unit, you must submit all assessment pieces and attain a mark of at least 50% for the unit as a whole.**

Late submission of assessment, without prior permission, will be taken into account in determining your mark.

Your essays must also be within 10% of the required word limit and your ability to meet this requirement will also be taken into account in determining your mark. QTC seeks to prepare you for ministry, and in ministry delivering presentations on time & within an acceptable length are essential skills.

ASSESSMENT TASKS	DESCRIPTION
<p><b>2500 word Essay</b> <b>50% of Final Grade</b></p>	<p>An essay, which will assess the content of topics listed for weeks 8-11, i.e. the teaching of the Gospels on major topics</p> <p>Write a 2500 word essay on <b>ONE</b> of the following topics:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How does Matthew show that Jesus has fulfilled the law?</li> <li>2. Compare and contrast Jesus' teaching about the kingdom of God with what we know of first century Jewish expectations about the kingdom.</li> <li>3. Why did the parables play such a significant role in the ministry of Jesus?</li> <li>4. Compare the role of miracles in Mark's gospel to their role in the other gospels.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Exam – 2 hours</b> <b>50% of Final Grade</b></p>	<p>A two-hour exam, which will assess the content of topics listed for weeks 1-7, 12-13. i.e. the background, literature and features of the Gospels.</p> <p>This exam will include two sections:</p> <p><b>Section A:</b> Students must answer <b>three</b> from seven short answer questions on the background to the gospels, i.e. the topics listed for weeks 2-4. This section will count for one-third of the total examination marks.</p> <p><b>Section B:</b> Students must answer <b>two</b> essay questions out of five questions on the literature of the gospels and the distinctive features of each. i.e. the topics listed for weeks 1,5,6,7,12,13. This section will count for two-thirds of the total examination marks.</p>



## Guide to Assessments

All students are expected to read the guidelines for written assignments provided in the ACT Handbooks, available in the library or online. You should also read the relevant sections of the QTC Student Manual.

All written work for this course should conform to the guidelines of the *SBL Handbook of Style* (with the exception of Australian spelling conventions.)

All Greek and Hebrew cited must be typed in a Unicode font; SBL BibLit is commended as one font covering Greek Hebrew and Roman Unicode ranges, but is not required. It is freely available from the SBL website: <http://www.sbl-site.org/educational/biblicalfonts.aspx>

The Learning Resources listed in this outline provide a beginning point for research for assessments for this course; students are expected to engage with the works listed there, but are not limited to these resources. The literature on the gospels is massive, and you are encouraged to consult widely.

Do note carefully the *number of words required* for each assessment item, depending on whether you are enrolled for NT301 or NT501.

### Assessment 1: Essay

This essay is designed to assess your ability to research an aspect of the gospels and in the process weigh up the differing views of the scholars in the light of scripture. Your primary task is answering the question from the Scripture. Please ensure the essay is answering the question.

The following are the key marking criteria used for this essay:

- Clarity of argument
  - Relevance to question
  - Grasp of the foundational features of the discipline (research essays in biblical studies)
  - Engagement with / analysis of primary sources (the Bible)
  - Range of secondary sources utilised (including journals)
  - Interaction with / critical evaluation of scholarly viewpoints
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- The essay must be in formal essay format. i.e. no dot points, good grammar, good paragraph and essay structure.
  - Your paper should include an abstract and bibliography in SBL format.
  - The bibliography will include 10-20 entries and will include a variety of viewpoints and recent scholarship where possible.
  - The essay must use the provided QTC coversheet as its first page and be submitted in word doc format.

## **Assessment 2: Exam**

This is designed to assess how well you have mastered the breadth of the content of the unit and your ability to apply that content to specific questions. The undergraduate exam will consist of one major essay question and six short answer questions. The Postgraduate level exam will consist of two essay questions and three short answer questions.

The best preparation is to know the course content and work through past exam questions. As you will see from past exam papers available in the library and on Moodle, the questions may require you to apply the information to a particular question. The most common mistake students make is to give information around the topic, but not answer the question.

## Learning Resources

The unit timetable on page 5 indicates chapters in the Textbook for reading each week.

The lectures are not designed to provide content that can be found in the textbook. The lectures **will assume that the student has completed the reading** chapter(s). During the lecture, certain aspects will be emphasised and explained and discussion will be encouraged in order to seek to apply what has been learned to life and understanding.

### ESSENTIAL REFERENCES- TEXT BOOKS

*Post-Grad and Under-Grad reading:*

Blomberg, C. *Jesus and the Gospels*, Leicester: Apollos 2009.

IF YOU WISH TO PURCHASE MORE BOOKS THE NEXT ONE(S) TO PURCHASE WOULD BE

Green, Joel B., Jeannine K. Brown, Nicholas Perrin. eds. *Dictionary of Jesus and the Gospels*. 1 vol. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2013

Or

David A. deSilva. *Honour, Patronage, Kinship & Purity: Unlocking New Testament Culture* Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 2000.

### OTHER REFERENCES

Aland, Kurt. ed, *Synopsis of the Four Gospels : Greek-English edition of the Synopsis Quattuor Evangeliorum*. 11th ed. Stuttgart: UBS, 2000.

Blomberg, C. L. *Interpreting the Parables*, Leicester: Apollos, 1990.

Carson, DA and D. J. Moo. *An Introduction to the New Testament*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2012.

Wood, D. R. W., I. H. Marshall, A. R. Millard, J. I. Packer and D. J. Wiseman eds. *The New Bible Dictionary*. 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 1996.

Gundry, R. H. *A Survey of the New Testament*. 5<sup>th</sup> ed. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2012.

Guthrie, D. *New Testament Introduction*. 4<sup>th</sup> rev. ed. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 1990.

Ladd, G. E. *A Theology of the New Testament*. Rev. ed. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1993.

Martin R. P. *New Testament Foundations: a guide for Christian students*. 2 vols. Exeter: Paternoster, 1975.

Wright, N.T. *The challenge of Jesus: rediscovering who Jesus was and is*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 1999.

This is only a short listing. Students should consult the ACT *Undergraduate Manual* or ACT *Post-Graduate Manual* for a fuller listing.

## ACT Standards: Grades

Grades in assessment instruments are awarded in the following categories-

Grade	Score	GPA
Fail (F)	0-49%	0
Pass (P)	50-57%	1
Pass+ (P+)	58-64%	1.5
Credit (C)	65-74%	2
Distinction (D)	75-84%	3
High Distinction (HD)	85+%	4